



Kentucky Coal Council
**Coal has been a part of
America's Success Story**

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Contact: Bill Higginbotham, Exec. Dir.
(502) 564-4930
bill.higginbotham@ky.gov

Frankfort, KY (Oct 11, 2004)... Kentucky coal has a great future. The increasing need for domestic energy sources is opening another door of opportunity for one of the state's abundant natural resources. As gasoline prices skyrocket, and reliance on foreign oil become less desirable, America requires a steady and domestic source of energy. Coal is waiting to fill the nation's energy needs.

Coal has been a part of America's success story. From the beginnings of the industrial revolution until the present, energy from coal has turned the wheels of progress. Kentucky coal helped build the unmatched industrial might of the United States. Without the use of coal powered foundries, the iron and steel that the country needed to build everything from agricultural machinery to railroads, could not have been produced in the quantities required by a growing nation.

The advantages of coal are many. Prices have remained relatively stable; this in sharp contrast to the dramatic increase in the cost of oil. Coal is readily available. Four fifths of America's fossil fuel reserves are made up of coal deposits. There is no shortage of coal in the United States. Coal lies beneath over 458,000 square miles of the nation's surface. Thirteen percent of the entire land area of the U.S. has coal deposits.

Coal is found in 38 states and is mined in 27. In these 38 states there is an estimated 500 billion tons of coal that can be mined with today's technology. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that America has four trillion tons of coal that could possibly be extracted as mining technology evolves. This vast source of future energy could not only free America from dependence on foreign oil imports but also make the nation energy sufficient. At present a third of the U.S. trade deficit is caused by importation of foreign oil.

The goal of energy sufficiency is a dream shared by all nations. In times of peace energy abundance makes life easier. The less money spent on securing energy, the more the consumer can spend on other goods and services. In time of war an uninterrupted supply of energy is essential to national defense. Without coal America could not have become the most powerful nation on earth.

In the past Kentucky coal has come through for the U.S. with flying colors. Presently the state's coal production helps maintain the high standard of living American's have come to expect. As energy needs increase, Kentucky coal will help light the way to a brighter future for all.

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